REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0043336) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0047983). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the references, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest controlling a parameter under feedback of a measured thickness of the cell or a measured height of the pillar spacer during the polymerizing step.

The Examiner acknowledges that the Sasaki et al. reference does not disclose measuring the thickness of a cell or the height of a pillar spacer on one of the pair of substrates. Instead, the Examiner relies on the Chen et al. reference to disclose this feature. The Chen et al. reference discloses that gap widths at measured points are monitored and fed back to modify parameter distribution during pressing of the two substrates (see paragraphs [0012], [0014], and [0028] of Chen et al.). The parameters disclosed by the Chen et al. reference are parameters used in the step of pressing the two substrates.

In contrast, Claim 1 of the present application calls for controlling a parameter under feedback of a measured thickness of the cell or a measured height of the pillar spacer during the polymerizing step ("while polymerizing the polymerizable component"). Fig. 5 of the present application shows that optical characteristics of a display panel vary depending on the thickness of the cells. Thus, as indicated on page 14, lines 20-24 of the present specification, a liquid crystal display device having desired

optical characteristics can be obtained by controlling parameters of polymerization under feedback of the measured thickness of the cell. The step of polymerizing the polymerizable component is different from the step of pressing of the two substrates.

Thus, even if the Sasaki et al. reference and the Chen et al. reference were combined, they would still not disclose or suggest controlling a parameter under feedback of a measured thickness of the cell or a measured height of the pillar spacer during the polymerizing step. For this reason, Claim 1 and all of its associated dependent claims are allowable over the cited references. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the above reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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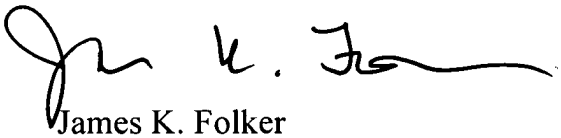
By 

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